

OPINIONS AND DECLARATIONS RENDERED BY THE INTER- NATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

Edited by

FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

Secretary to the Commission

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OPINION 452

Addition to the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* of the specific name *australis* Kerr, 1792, as published in the combination *Canis australis*, as the oldest available name for the Falkland Islands Wolf (Class Mammalia)

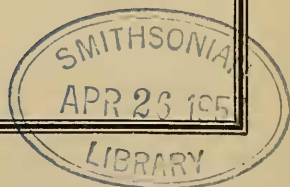
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INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

COMPOSITION AT THE TIME OF THE ADOPTION OF THE RULING GIVEN IN OPINION 452

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Secretary : Mr. Francis HEMMING (*London, England*) (27th July 1948)

B. The Members of the Commission

Arranged in order of precedence by reference to date of election or of most recent re-election, as prescribed by the International Congress of Zoology)

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Dr. K. H. L. KEY (*Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation, Canberra, A.C.T., Australia*) (15th October 1954)

Dr. Alden H. MILLER (*Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California, U.S.A.*) (29th October 1954)

Doc. Dr. Ferdinand PRANTL (*Národní Museum v Praze, Prague, Czechoslovakia*) (30th October 1954)

Professor Dr. Wilhelm KÜHNELT (*Zoologisches Institut der Universität, Vienna, Austria*) (6th November 1954)

Professor F. S. BODENHEIMER (*The Hebrew University, Jerusalem, Israel*) (11th November 1954)

Professor Ernst MAYR (*Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, Cambridge, Massachusetts, U.S.A.*) (4th December 1954)

Professor Enrico TORTONESE (*Museo di Storia Naturale, "G. Doria," Genova, Italy*) (16th December 1954)

ADDITION TO THE "OFFICIAL LIST OF SPECIFIC NAMES IN ZOOLOGY" OF THE SPECIFIC NAME "AUSTRALIS" KERR, 1792, AS PUBLISHED IN THE COMBINATION "CANIS AUSTRALIS", AS THE OLDEST AVAILABLE NAME FOR THE FALKLAND ISLANDS WOLF (CLASS MAMMALIA)

RULING :—The under-mentioned specific name is hereby placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* with the Name No. 1140 :—

australis Kerr, 1792, as published in the combination *Canis australis*.

I. THE STATEMENT OF THE CASE

When on 27th September 1950, Dr. G. H. H. Tate (*The American Museum of Natural History, New York*) submitted to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature a request for the use of the Plenary Powers to secure that the name *dingo* Meyer, 1793, as published in the combination *Canis dingo*, should be the oldest available name for the Dingo of Australia which forms the subject of the Ruling given by the Commission in *Opinion* 451, he raised also the question of the use of those Powers to preserve the name *antarcticus* Bechstein, 1799, as published in the combination *Canis antarcticus*, for the Falkland Islands Wolf, by suppressing the senior subjective synonym *australis* Kerr, 1792, as published in the combination *Canis australis*. Later, not long before his death, Dr. Tate informed the Office of the Commission that he had formed the conclusion that it was already too late to preserve the name *antarcticus* Bechstein for the above species. The discussion of this subject was accordingly deleted from his application relating to the name to be used for the Australian Dingo. In order to bring the case to a close, the Secretary on 18th January 1955 submitted to the

International Commission the following paper in which, in conformity with the conclusion reached by Dr. Tate as to the need for accepting the name *australis* Kerr for the Falkland Islands Wolf, he suggested that that name should be placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—

Proposed acceptance of the specific name “australis” Kerr, 1792, as published in the combination “Canis australis” as the name for the Falkland Islands Wolf

By FRANCIS HEMMING, C.M.G., C.B.E.

(*Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature*)

At the time when he proposed that the Commission should use its Plenary Powers to suppress the name *antarcticus* Kerr, 1792, as published in the combination *Canis antarcticus*, in order to preserve for the Dingo of Australia the well-known name *dingo* Meyer, 1793, as published in the combination *Canis dingo* (File Z.N.(S.) 487)¹, the late Dr. G. H. H. Tate (*The American Museum of Natural History, New York*) suggested also that the Commission should consider whether it was desirable in the interests of stability in nomenclature to suppress another specific name published by Kerr which had long been ignored but which had been found to be older than the name which had for many years been in use for the species in question.

2. The name referred to by Dr. Tate was the name *australis* Kerr, 1792 (*Anim. Kingd. zool. Syst. Linnaeus* : 144), as published in the combination *Canis australis*. This name applies to, and is the oldest available name for, the Falkland Islands Wolf. For a hundred and thirty years, however, this name was completely overlooked, the Falkland Islands Wolf being known by the name *antarcticus* Bechstein, 1799 (Pennant's *Uebers. vierfüssige Thiere* 1 : 271) as published in the combination *Canis antarcticus*.

3. The identity of the species represented by the two foregoing nominal species was established by Cabrera in 1931 (*J. Mammal.* 12 : 66). In the light of current zoological sentiment against the upsetting of long-established names by the resurrection of ancient names which have long been consigned to oblivion, it is unfortunate, as Dr. Tate pointed out, that an application was not made to the Commission for the suppression of the name *australis* Kerr immediately it was discovered that it antedated the established name *antarcticus* Bechstein. Now that twenty-five years have elapsed since the re-

¹ The decision taken by the International Commission in regard to the name here referred to has since been embodied in *Opinion* 451

appearance of the name *australis* Kerr, it is necessary to consider whether that name has during that period established itself sufficiently to make it unnecessary at this stage to attempt to save the name *antarcticus* Bechstein.

4. Shortly before his death Dr. Tate informed me that he had come to the conclusion that it was now too late to prevent the disappearance in synonymy of the name *antarcticus* Bechstein. The same view has been expressed by Dr. T. C. S. Morrison-Scott (*British Museum (Natural History)*, London), whom I recently consulted on this subject. In his letter (dated 4th January 1955) Dr. Morrison-Scott noted that there was only one recent work on the mammals of South America as a whole ; this is the work entitled *Mamíferos Sud-Americanos* by Cabrera & Yepes published in 1940, in which work the name *australis* Kerr was used for the Falkland Islands Wolf.

5. In view of the fact that this question was raised with the Commission by Dr. Tate, it seems desirable that a decision should now be taken on it. Having regard to the evidence summarised above it appears that the general feeling is that in view of the march of time the best course will be to accept the change of name made in this case. Accordingly, if this is found to be the general view, I recommend that the Commission should close this case by placing the specific name *australis* Kerr, 1792, as published in the combination *Canis australis*, on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*.

II. THE SUBSEQUENT HISTORY OF THE CASE

2. Registration of the present application : When in 1950, Dr. G. H. H. Tate raised the question of the specific name to be used for the Falkland Islands Wolf jointly with the question of the name to be used for the Dingo of Australia the two problems involved were allotted the Registered No. Z.N.(S.) 487. When later Dr. Tate abandoned the idea of asking for the use of the Plenary Powers to preserve the name *antarcticus* Bechstein for the first of these animals and it was decided to place before the Commission an application for the recognition of the name *australis* Kerr for that species by adding it to the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology*, it was decided to separate these two cases by allotting to the new Registered No. Z.N.(S.) 898 to the

problem relating to the name to be used for the Falkland Islands Wolf, while retaining the original number (Z.N.(S.) 487) for the consideration of the question of the name to be used for the Dingo.

3. Publication of the present application : The present application was sent to the printer on 19th January 1955 and was published on 28th February in the same year in Part 4 of Volume 11 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* (Hemming, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* **11** : 122—123).

4. Support received from Joshua L. Baily, Jr. (San Diego, California, U.S.A.) : On 4th May 1955, Dr. Joshua L. Baily, Jr. (*San Diego, California, U.S.A.*) addressed the following letter to the Office of the Commission in support of the present application :—

Under the two numbers cited above the following names are discussed ; *Canis dingo* Mayer, 1793, *Canis australis* Kerr, 1792, *Canis antarcticus* Kerr, 1792, *Canis antarcticus* Bechstein, 1799. The validation of the first two and the suppression of the last two are requested.

Since there is no doubt at all as to the meaning of the first two and since the last two are homonyms, which are always likely to be confusing I am in agreement with both petitions, though for slightly different reasons than those advanced by the petitioners.

5. No objection received : No objection to the action proposed in the present case was received from any source.

III. THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION ON ZOOLOGICAL NOMENCLATURE

6. Issue of Voting Paper V.P.(55)34 : On 22nd November 1955 a Voting Paper (V.P.(55)34) was issued in which the Members of the Commission were invited to vote either for, or against, “ the proposal relating to the specific name to be accepted for the

Falkland Islands Wolf as set out in paragraph 5 on page 123 of Volume 11 of the *Bulletin of Zoological Nomenclature* " [i.e. in the paragraph numbered as above in the paper reproduced in the first paragraph of the present *Opinion*].

7. The Prescribed Voting Period : As the foregoing Voting Paper was issued under the Three-Month Rule, the Prescribed Voting Period closed on 22nd February 1956.

8. Particulars of the Voting on Voting Paper V.P.(55)34 : At the close of the Prescribed Voting Period, the state of the voting on Voting Paper V.P.(55)34 was as follows :—

(a) *Affirmative Votes had been given by the following twenty (20) Commissioners (arranged in the order in which Votes were received) :*

Holthuis ; Hering ; Riley ; Vokes ; Jaczewski ; Lemche ;
Dymond ; Esaki ; Mertens ; do Amaral ; Hankó ;
Boschma ; Sylvester-Bradley ; Key ; Cabrera ; Bonnet ;
Kühnelt ; Bradley (J.C.) ; Stoll ; Hemming ;

(b) *Negative Votes, four (4) :*

Prantl ; Bodenheimer ; Miller ; Tortonese ;

(c) *Voting Papers not returned, one (1) :*

Mayr.

9. Declaration of Result of Vote : On 23rd February 1956, Mr. Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission, acting as Returning Officer for the Vote taken on Voting Paper V.P.(55)34, signed a Certificate that the Votes cast were as set out in paragraph 8 above and declaring that the proposal submitted in the foregoing Voting Paper had been duly adopted

and that the decision so taken was the decision of the International Commission in the matter aforesaid.

10. Preparation of the Ruling given in the present "Opinion" : On 17th November 1956, Mr. Hemming prepared the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* and at the same time signed a Certificate that the terms of that Ruling were in complete accord with those of the proposal approved by the International Commission in its Vote on Voting Paper V.P.(55)34.

11. Original Reference : The following is the original reference for the name placed on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* by the Ruling given in the present *Opinion* :—

australis, *Canis*, Kerr, 1792, *Anim. Kingd. zool. Syst. Linnaeus* : 144

12. The prescribed procedures were duly complied with by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature in dealing with the present case, and the present *Opinion* is accordingly hereby rendered in the name of the said International Commission by the under-signed Francis Hemming, Secretary to the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature, in virtue of all and every the powers conferred upon him in that behalf.

13. The present *Opinion* shall be known as *Opinion* Four Hundred and Fifty-Two (452) of the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

DONE in London, this Seventeenth day of November, Nineteen Hundred and Fifty-Six.

*Secretary to the International Commission
on Zoological Nomenclature*

FRANCIS HEMMING